Appearance & Reality

APPEARANCE AND REALITY

1 Kings 14:27 And King Rehoboam made in their stead brazen shields."

INTRO. When Shishak, King of Egypt, took away all the treasures of the temple and the shields of gold which Solomon had made, Rehoboam caused other shields to be made out out of brass. These he had his armor-bearer carry on stated occasions, thus keeping up the appearance of royalty.

Keeping upappearances may become a form of hypocricy, and it would do us well to heed the words of Jesus," Judge not according to appearance."

Shields of brass may be made to shine brightly, but we should ever bear in mind that all is not gold that glitters. "Judge not according to the appearance."

Many believe what they see, but often what they see is not re
I. real.

I. How often in the world of nature seeing is deceiving.

The sun looks smaller than the earth, and seems to rise every morning and set every evening.

When we look at the distant horizon it seems that th sky touches the ground. The mirage on the desert.

II. People who wish to seem wise and knowing. Afraid to say, "I do not know" Their use of big words without knowing what they mean. Rehohoam cut a very sorry figure behind his armor bearer who carried before his king shields of brass in the place of the gold ones. And so many, in their various pretenses are brazen instead of golden

brass shields

III. To judge not by the appearance applies especially in our estimation of those who do wickedly.

Some grow rich thru ill-gotten gains and to all appearances they are enjoying their rounds of pleasure that only money can make possible. They seem to be happy. But it is only appearance. Such riches cannot make anyone happy, for within every soul there is a conscience that points the finger of scorn at such ill-gotten riches, saying, "Brass", "Brass".

In victor Hugo's poem on Cain, the murderer is pictured as fleeing from the face of God.

With his family fled many miles out of "den to a mountain" but the awful glowing eye of God met him there. Then out to a point of land projecting far out to sea. But the

eye of God met him there. Then Cain begged for a tent in which he could hide. But the eye of God penetrated the tent. "Build over me a hut," cried Cain, but thru the heavy timbers glared the Omnipotent Eye. Then they built a tomb deep down into the ground and buried Cain there as tho he were dead, but still that awful Eye of God kept staring at him. He could not get away from it. And so it is that no evil-doer can ever get away from his wicked deed, no matter what his appearances may be.

IV. In estimating the successes and failures of men it behooves us not to judge by the appearance. Do not mistake brass shields for gold ones. Many a man has gone down in the battle of life- businessfailure, ambition thwarted, hopes blasted. The unthinking world sneering at him, "Failure failure!", but the All-Wise God who sees beyond the outward appearance bids the recording angel write upon the fallen man's life, "Well done good and faithful servant."

V. In our judging of men's characters it is well for us to heed the words of Jesus, "Judge not by the appearance." Pretenders are actors who get behind the shields of brass so as to appear kingly. In every walk of life look out for the men who carry brass shields, whose characters are but veneer, made to seem what they ~~are~~ in reality are not The surprise inside of the old-fashioned house.